

## Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, EEC

SUBJECT: EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI SURVEYS THE STATE OF  
THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON JULY 14, SURVEYED THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMUNITY DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1975 AND THE PROSPECTS FOR THE COMMUNITY DURING THE LAST HALF OF THE YEAR UNDER THE ITALIAN PRESIDENCY. ORTOLI SAID THAT THE COMMISSION AND THE COMMUNITY HAVE "A NEW LEASE ON LIFE" AND "GREATER DETERMINATION," AS DEMONSTRATED BY THE EC'S PROGRESS IN MANY AREAS UNDER THE IRISH PRESIDENCY. HE SPOKE OF "A NEW SPIRIT OF DECISION-MAKING WITHIN THE COUNCIL," WHICH HE SAID STEMMED LARGELY FROM THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE UK REFERENDUM. ORTOLI SAID HE HOPED THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD CONTINUE TO BE A "MOTIVATING FORCE" IN THE COMMUNITY DURING THE SECOND HALF OF 1975 AND THAT DURING THE NEXT SIX MONTHS THE COMMISSION WOULD CONCENTRATE ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE EC REGIONAL POLICY, THE PROMOTION OF EUROPEAN COMPANY LAW AND TAX HARMONIZATION. END SUMMARY.

2. IN HIS JULY 14 PRESS CONFERENCE, EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT  
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ORTLI REVIEWED THE COMMUNITY'S PROGRESS IN A NUMBER OF

AREAS UNDER THE IRISH PRESIDENCY. HE POINTED TO THE LOME CONVENTION, THE BEGINNING OF A COMMUNITY-LDC POLICY, THE MEDITERRANEAN POLICY, EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE, EC-PRC RELATIONS, AND THE GROWING TREND TO HAVE THE EC SPEAK WITH A SINGLE VOICE IN INTERNATIONAL FORA, AS POSITIVE RESULTS IN THE EXTERNAL FIELD. INTERNALLY, HE HATED THAT THE COMMUNITY HAD DEFINED A REGIONAL POLICY AND A HILL-FARMING POLICY, HAD BEGUN WORK ON A SPECIAL POLICY, AND PASSED REGULATIONS GOVERNING FREEDOM OF ESTABLISHMENT FOR PHYSICIANS. IN THE FINANCIAL AREA, ORTOLI POINTED TO GREATER ECONOMIC COORDINATION AMONG MEMBER STATES, THE NEW EUROPEAN UNIT OF ACCOUNT AND THE RETURN OF FRANCE TO THE "SNAKE." ORTOLI SAID THAT PROGRESS IN ALL OF THESE AREAS WAS DUE TO THE POLITICAL DETERMINATION OF THE MEMBER STATES AS EVIDENCED BY A NEW SPIRIT OF DECISION-MAKING IN THE COUNCIL. HE PRAISED THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE IRISH DURING THEIR PRESIDENCY, AND IN PARTICULAR IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD.

3. LOOKING FORWARD ORTOLI SAID THE COMMISSION WAS WORKING ON PROPOSALS DESIGNED TO DEAL WITH THE "REAL PROBLEMS" OF THE COMMUNITY. HERE HE MENTIONED AGRICULTURE, ENERGY, RAW MATERIALS, EUROPEAN COMPANY LAW, ACTIONS AIMED AT COMPLETING THE CUSTOMS UNION AND REMOVING TECHNICAL OBSTACLES TO TRADE, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PASSPORT UNION.

4. ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE OF THE BALANCE SHEET, ORTOLI SAID HIS GREATEST DISAPPOINTMENT IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1975 WAS THE COMMUNITY'S FAILURE TO ADOPT AN INTERNAL ENERGY POLICY. ENERGY DISCUSSIONS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY HAD BEEN, HE THOUGHT, "TOO OUTWARD-ORIENTED." ORTOLI SAID THAT THE PROBLEMS OF THE AVAILABILITY OF ENERGY AND THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEMS CAUSED BY INCREASED OIL PRICES ARE REAL AND THAT THE TIME HAD COME TO DEFINE THE COMMUNITY'S OWN ENERGY POLICY. ORTOLI ALSO NOTED A LACK OF PROGRESS IN THE INDUSTRIAL POLICY AREA, BUT SAID HE WAS HOPEFUL IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO MOVE AHEAD IN THE AREA OF EUROPEAN COMPANY LAW AND THE HARMONIZATION OF TAXATION IN THE NEAR FUTURE. GREENWALD

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